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**"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."**

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1939

**The Honours Question Again**

The current issue of *The Legionary*, contains a spirited plea for the lifting of the ban on the bestowal of honours on Canadian citizens by His Majesty the King. The resolution adopting this ban was put through the House of Commons in 1919, unconstitutionally, the writer suggests, following the exposure of scandalous exploitation of honour awards by the Lloyd George Government in Great Britain.

Some years ago, the article recalls, Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett ignored this 20-year old resolution of the House of Commons entirely. He made recommendations for royal recognition. These were applauded throughout Canada, for his selections were judicious and impartial.

Mr. Bennett took the position that the resolution had bound only the Parliament which passed it, and that it did not bind subsequent Parliaments. It had not been adopted by the Senate and it had not, under any circumstances, the force or effect of Law.

However, for the past four years the royal prerogative has again been in an eclipse. If the Bennett position was wrong, as it has been argued, then it was unconstitutional of him to make the recommendations. All the honours and rewards conferred during his regime ought to be rescinded. They have not been rescinded because no government dare rescind them, and principally because they were properly and constitutionally awarded.

"If no wrong has been done," say *The Legionary* writer, "if it was constitutional during the five years between 1930 and 1935 to make recommendations for royal recognition, then it is still constitutional. That brings up the question to what extent the caprice of men temporarily in office should dominate the relationship between a people and their sovereign."

With that is the other question, to what extent should the King of Canada be denied the exercise of his prerogative, while the executive heads of foreign states continue to confer honours on Canadians.

On the matter of the royal prerogative, in this sense, our Constitution is resolutely silent. Nothing in the British North America Act deals with it in any way. The advice given by the Prime Minister to the King in that matter of honours has just developed as a constitutional usage out of the practice in the United Kingdom. It is governed by no law, no decree, nothing but custom and usage.

Nothing in the British North America Act, for example, prohibits a Provincial Prime Minister from instructing his Lieutenant-Governor to forward recommendations to the King, through the Governor-General. Nothing in the British North America Act vests the Dominion Government with any power whatever to invalidate any such action, and nothing in the Act restricts the right to make recommendations to the Prime Minister of the Dominion administration.

The fact that the Provinces, in common with the Dominion, create King's Counsel adds strength to the position that in the matter of the royal prerogative the authority of the Provincial Prime Ministers is not one bit inferior to that of the Prime Minister of the Dominion. And that authority is not affected just because the Provincial Prime Ministers have not hitherto exercised it outside the sphere of the legal profession.

The *Legionary* writer recalls that it is only a few weeks since Canadians welcomed their King and Queen with an acclaim that reverberated throughout the whole British Empire. Prime Ministers read Addresses assuring His Majesty of the undying devotion of Canadians to his throne and person. They renewed the allegiance of the people on whose behalf they spoke. And they paid their homage with the greatest dignity and sincerity. In the thunderous greeting which the millions of Canadians extended to their Sovereigns there was reflected the real soul of this nation. Canada's true self was mirrored in the smiles, the applause, the songs and the fervent cheers of her people—not in finicky little phrases tucked away in political resolutions.

Editorially *The Legionary* says it is not taking sides on this issue, but is desirous of furthering a full discussion.

**An Honoured Guest**

Attending the annual convention today at Summerside of the Provincial Command of the Canadian Legion will be one of Canada's most distinguished war heroes in the person of Major Milton F. Gregg, V. C., M. C., and Bar. Major Gregg's appointment a few years ago to the position of Sergeant at Arms in the House of Commons met with widespread approval. It was as a Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Regiment during the operations near Cambrai, Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, 1918, that his bravery and initiative won for him the coveted Victoria Cross.

The official record states that on that occasion, when the advance of the Brigade was held up by fire from both flanks and by thick uncut wire, Lieutenant Gregg crawled forward alone and explored the wire until he found a small gap, through which he subsequently led his men, and forced an entry into the enemy trench. The enemy counter-attacked in force, and, through lack of bombs, the situation became critical. Although wounded, Lieutenant

Gregg returned alone under terrific fire and collected a further supply. Then, rejoining his party which by this time was much reduced in numbers, and in spite of a second wound, he reorganized his men and led them with the greatest determination against the enemy trenches, which he finally cleared. Remaining with his company in spite of wounds, he again, on the 30th of September, led his men in attack until severely wounded. "The outstanding valour of this officer," concludes the official record, "saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue."

Prince Edward Island is proud to welcome Major Gregg on this occasion, not only on account of his war record but for his peace-time services, particularly in connection with the laudable objectives of the Canadian Legion, of which he is Dominion Honorary Treasurer.

The Legion will have other distinguished guests today, including Hon. Dr. Cyrus MacMillan, of McGill University, and Mr. Alistair MacKinnon, Halifax, Provincial Secretary of the Nova Scotia Command.

**Editorial Notes**

Another good half-holiday to add to the record.

Hay is being saved in good shape but small quantity.

Killiecrankie, where Claverhouse, defeated MacKay and was himself slain, this date, 1689.

Hope the Government will for once be reasonable and allow Queens and Kings Counties a short cut on hard-surfaced roads to Borden.

The Conservatives of Prince County are making arrangements to nominate a candidate in opposition to the veteran Mr. A. E. MacLean. They have several desirable prospects to choose from.

Rev. Richard Rosevear, an athletic Anglican priest, has taken over the management of the Parson Cross Hotel in Sheffield, England. He says he dislikes people who think drinking is necessarily evil.

One just wonders how the city is run. According to Mr. John Anderson the work of City Clerk is more than one man can handle, working night and day, including Sundays; yet, apparently now a stenographer is sufficient to run the whole show.

Archdeacon Frederick George Scott, of Quebec, well known for his poetry, has received a letter from the Papal Secretary of State expressing appreciation for a poem written by the Canadian clergyman as a tribute to the memory of the late Pope Pius XI. The letter assured the Archdeacon of the "prayerful good wishes of His Holiness."

So there is still beneficial use for the war horse. Even the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at the Parliament building, Ottawa, are henceforth to be mounted, visitors having been disappointed at seeing them on foot. The mounts have become one of Canada's best tourist advertisements.

Dalvey is one of the great attractions this summer. At present there are twenty-one guests in residence, all from Ontario. On Sundays and holidays it is popular with citizens and others for midday luncheons and evening dinners. But in these days it would be well were the authorities to salt the newly ploughed roadway to lay the dust caused by the innumerable cars passing in front of the balcony.

Mrs. Alfred Watt, president of the Associated Country Women of the World, sailed on Saturday from Liverpool for Canada in the liner *Montclare*. Mrs. Watt will visit Ottawa the first week in August for private business with the Government and will then go to Toronto where she will be a guest of honor at the Canadian National Exhibition during the last week in August. She will attend the Women's Institute meeting at Edmonton the first week in October.

Truth is still stranger than fiction, as we learn from Milwaukee. Otto Bach, 40, of Baraboc, Wis., appeared before Municipal Judge Max Nohl on a cheque forging charge. "What is your occupation?" asked the judge. "I manufacture cheque protectors to prevent forgeries," replied Bach sheepishly. "Business is slack and I ran out of funds." The judge placed him on probation for three years, with the caution that prevention is better than cure even in the case of cheques.

In a report on the administration of justice in the Supreme Court of Ontario, Mr. F. H. Barlow, K.C., Master of the Supreme Court, among other things recommends the abolition of the Grand Jury system. A suggestion of this nature was made here a number of years ago but got its quietus when the Chief Justice pointed out that to do so would be striking at one of our bulwarks of freedom, the Grand Jury having many duties to discharge apart altogether from its hearing the evidence on which an accused was committed for trial. Abolish the Grand Jury and the first step is taken to lose that freedom for which we are indebted to the Magna Charta.

The U.S.A. Senate's refusal to revise neutrality legislation at the present session of Congress has been described by President Roosevelt as a definite blow to business recovery and as increasing the probability of war. He prefaced his remark with the statement that neutrality legislation was a dead issue until Congress met again in January. Leaving no doubt of his intention to abandon the fight until next year rather than take the issue to the country in hopes of an affirmative mandate, Mr. Roosevelt indicated he would forego his plans of a swing around the circle this summer. He probably will not go to Alaska and return through the northwestern states as he planned, the President said, but would limit his trip to the San Francisco exposition.

**NOTES BY THE WAY**

An enlightened age has put many manifestations of superstition to flight, but faith in soothsayers prevails to an astonishing extent. Usually it is merely a harmless indulgence, a form of escape and self-deception, but it may have the gravest consequences. In the case of the Chicago man who informed ten months ago by an astrologer that his destiny was suicide, the other day took his life by him. Yet this type of charlatanism cannot be cured wholly by statute. Society's best defence against it is an extension of education that will open all minds to rational truth, and wipe out the surviving vestiges of primitive obscurantism. — St. Louis Dispatch.

R. M. of Antigonish, was having an ideal time on the highway at French River on Saturday morning. He was well loaded "but some sort as he trudged his weary way New Glasgow wards. The way was long and many miles divided him and his goal when he sought diversion. A truck approaching, he threw himself upon the highway and nearly dived the big machine in its efforts to avoid him. He repeated the feat only for years in continuity until altered by "Appeal" or actual "increase" or "decrease" as by statute provided. To make this more emphatic, I quote verbatim from the Act of Incorporation:—Cap. 23, 22 Geo. 5, (1932)—Sec. 6—(3). "It shall not be necessary for the Assessor to make up each year a new assessment book with the same conditions and other particulars hereinbefore mentioned, but the assessment book signed by the Assessor and returned to the City Clerk with these particulars shall be kept by him as a permanent record for assessment purposes to be added to each subsequent year as hereinafter mentioned. The Assessor shall make out and complete a supplementary return and assessment giving the locations as far as possible and valuations of the property to be assessed, and the poll tax of all persons, firms or corporations liable to be assessed, who are not on the permanent assessment book which will be the basis for the supplementary returns and corrections shall be deemed the assessment book referred to in section 51. The City Council may in any year from time to time as they see fit, order a new assessment book to be prepared, completed, signed and filed, as provided in respect to the first assessment book to replace the one with its supplementary returns previously used and such new assessment book with its annual supplementary returns and corrections shall be deemed the regular assessment book until replaced by a new one as herein provided."

On earlier visits to France, Henry R. Luce, editor of the magazine *Time*, was during a recent visit to the Legion of Honour and received ultra-courteous attention from his French colleagues. Arriving the other day, the reception was very different. He was met by the "Syndicate de la Presse Parisienne" who was undertaking legal action. The cause of the change of sentiment was this paragraph in *Time*: "The Paris press has long been the sewer of world journalism. Few are the Parisian newsmen who cannot be bought, rare is the newspaper unwilling to be 'used' by some prominent newspaper. Their German 'news' recently suggests that slush funds from the Third Reich are being used to bribe the Paris press. Time having been seized by the forelock, as it were, Henry R. Luce disclaimed personal responsibility for the article which he had written and apologized to the president of the Syndicate, promised that nothing more would appear in *Time* about the Paris press and the curious words of Browning, "Time's wheel runs back and stops," appeared more appropriate than ever. The final case last week, with widely printed stories in the Paris papers that employees of Rightist newspapers had been arrested and had been in the chain of command and the Communist L'Humanite recalls that Bullitt, the American ambassador, had reported that the French press was lavishly subsidizing the French press. — Moncton Transcript.

Mr. George C. McCullagh, who rode out a month ago like a modern St. George to slay all the modern dragons has gone and done what older and wiser heads than his knew he must do. He has sheathed his sword and buried gracefully and decently his once lusty "Leadership League." Mr. McCullagh, for whom life will always be an adventure, and who will ride again against other dragons, can charge his Leadership League to experience. To "profit and lose." There will be those who doubt who will dub him, who will charge betrayal in the bitter spirit of Browning's "Lost Leader." It is always thus. Yet those who were with McCullagh, whose valor far exceeds his experience, but whose sincerity cannot be questioned, will not join in the clamor. They know that his Leadership League, for all its impracticability and folly, told the generous instincts of one who, the lessons of life brought to him by years of struggle, may have, usefully, McCullagh, in his Leadership League, was partly the victim of people with a passion for delusions. Always there are those who are falling for the same facts of life, and carried away by catchwords and slogans, are eternally demanding somebody to lead them away from the mire of their own facts and from human nature's limitations to some Promised Land of plenty McCullagh, young, impetuous and inexperienced, mistook the path of the nation, set out, as so many had set out before him, to give them what they craved. It was knight-errantry, not leadership. But failure will not break permanently the spirit of George McCullagh. When he learns as learn he must, that life is a hard campaign with some last battles, he will march to other wars with a better equipment for victory. Meanwhile he can console himself with the thought that the road he has made this reverse far from fatal; that, despite its loss of his substance, his *Globe* and *Mail* has not been injured. He may have, indeed, been helped. His circulation flight may have had a heavy price, but Mr. McCullagh will not regret it. He made of sterner metal. — Ottawa Journal.

Captain C.R.S. Pitman, the game warden of Uganda, in his latest report, states that in damage is now being done by elephants to cultivation, and he hopes that it will be unnecessary again to increase the rate of killing. That elephants can retaliate upon their pursuers is shown by two stories. One of the guards was tired for four hours by an angry herd of elephants. He was killed and the wounded animal, when his extractor broke. The wounded animal made a great noise and attracted a herd, which would not let him go. The guard, who was seriously injured, spent his time unsuccessfully pushing sticks down the barrel in an effort to free the case. At the end of his exhausting vigil he was a nervous wreck. A chief reported that an elephant had picked up a burning log thrown at him and deposited it on the thrower's hut, which was burnt down. The chief adds that "elephants have as much intelligence as Europeans." Hippopotamus are numerous in the Lakes and sometimes give trouble to men and do damage to lake-side cultivation. Last Autumn a hippopotamus attacked and badly damaged the mail van. The van came round a corner on a couple of hippopotamus which were fighting in the road, and one promptly attacked the car. — London Times

**PUBLIC FORUM**

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of subjects of interest. The *Charlottetown Guardian* does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

**THE CITY MUDDLE**

Sir,—In the matter of tax assessments, alleged "unauthorized" reductions, excess discounts, alterations in rate books, etc., the special auditors have evidently failed to study deep enough into the "mandatory" legislation, to enable them to declare with any degree of finality the accuracy of their findings.

Their conclusion, perhaps a natural one, appears to be based entirely upon superficial evidences. Yet the Act of Incorporation is plain enough for even a simple mind to understand, yet its definite commands most frequently ignored in practice.

The Act, for instance, confers on the assessor, or assessors, an authority, and command, after making diligent enquiry, by every available means, to assess the value of all taxable property, and to record such, under oath of office, as the actual taxable value of the property in question. What this has been done according to statute, there is no mandatory or directory power given to any one to alter or amend except by appeal. Not even the Assessor can alter his own assessments, and by the definite mandates of every section of the Act, that valuation is not for the year only but for years in continuity until altered by "Appeal" or actual "increase" or "decrease" as by statute provided. To make this more emphatic, I quote verbatim from the Act of Incorporation:—Cap. 23, 22 Geo. 5, (1932)—Sec. 6—(3). "It shall not be necessary for the Assessor to make up each year a new assessment book with the same conditions and other particulars hereinbefore mentioned, but the assessment book signed by the Assessor and returned to the City Clerk with these particulars shall be kept by him as a permanent record for assessment purposes to be added to each subsequent year as hereinafter mentioned. The Assessor shall make out and complete a supplementary return and assessment giving the locations as far as possible and valuations of the property to be assessed, and the poll tax of all persons, firms or corporations liable to be assessed, who are not on the permanent assessment book which will be the basis for the supplementary returns and corrections shall be deemed the assessment book referred to in section 51. The City Council may in any year from time to time as they see fit, order a new assessment book to be prepared, completed, signed and filed, as provided in respect to the first assessment book to replace the one with its supplementary returns previously used and such new assessment book with its annual supplementary returns and corrections shall be deemed the regular assessment book until replaced by a new one as herein provided."

Thus as books were out they are authorized to replace them with a new one of a similar character. Too often assessors make the mistake of imagining that a new book authorizes new assessment. It does not.

This amended Act, which emphasizes preceding acts, has been implemented more in the breach than in its observance. In 1928, it met its Waterloo in a chain of frequent unlawful irregularities.

The three assessors were approached with a proposed increase of an all around revaluation of the taxable properties to the extent of \$1,000,000. This was in contempt of the statute and they at first declined. Under pressure, they consented to the "grave irregularities," reported by the special audit.

An unauthorized tax increase of about \$20,000 was followed by an effort to free the case. At the end of his exhausting vigil he was a nervous wreck. A chief reported that an elephant had picked up a burning log thrown at him and deposited it on the thrower's hut, which was burnt down. The chief adds that "elephants have as much intelligence as Europeans." Hippopotamus are numerous in the Lakes and sometimes give trouble to men and do damage to lake-side cultivation. Last Autumn a hippopotamus attacked and badly damaged the mail van. The van came round a corner on a couple of hippopotamus which were fighting in the road, and one promptly attacked the car. — London Times

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**National Park Golf**

(Toronto *Globe* and *Mail*)  
 An enthusiastic gallery is reported to have watched Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Transport, and Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources, dedicate the new golf course which graces Canada's latest national park, skirting the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in beautiful Prince Edward Island.

Accounts do not say whether the golfing or the greens evoked the enthusiasm. Conceding that the best to show that golf in a national park in a Province peopled by Scots should be worthy of its origin, we incline to the belief that the course got the major applause. And at that we are obliged to correct, on good authority, the estimate published in this paper that the average cost of each hole was \$18,000, since the contract price for the job has a limit of \$55,000, or approximately \$3,000 a hole. This does not imply that the Ministers failed to earn the silver trophies bestowed on them by the committee in charge of the Confederation celebration, but simply that they played only \$21,000 worth of holes instead of \$126,000.

Opening of the park completes a chain of national parks across Canada while Prince Edward Island staged a notable anniversary event. The "Cradle of Confederation" can beckon to tourists in larger numbers pointing with pride to the Green Gable links where Hon. C. D. Howe and Hon. T. A. Crerar made seven holes in 43 and 47 respectively.

abnormal number of appeals, and an appalling increase in the alleged defaulters' lists because of the many who would not and also those who could not pay. And from that date on the City accounts have annually reported an unpaid tax balance which I doubt is without duplication in Canada.

Next in order came the promising of payment, of which I am of opinion the bulk of those adjustments, very properly declared to be "unauthorized reductions" by the auditors, which has predominated as a practice for the last decade, is the sequel to that blunder of 1928.

While compelled to rely on rumor and surmise for record of what occurred and has been occurring in secret council, we have the founded fact that the three assessors took action in the Supreme Court to recover their salaries and that they were adroitly superceded by an innovation in the Act by legislation. And thus commenced the special auditors' well described chaos, from which we are now struggling to recover.

While these irregularities exist, I believe in extensive numbers, I am very seriously in doubt if any of them were of criminal design, that any individual within Council precincts or without, profited personally by them, and that to the greater extent they were justified in their own minds, the more would do in his own business; irregular I admit, but to the benefit of the City revenues, and to all concerned.

I am, Sir, etc., TAXPAYER.

**That Body of Yours**

By James W. Burton, M.D.

**OVEREXERCISING AND OVEREXERCISING MAY CAUSE FATAL HEART ATTACKS.**

A well known heart specialist, Dr. John Oille, Toronto, told the members of a service club that patients with fatal coronary thrombosis (blood clot blocking a vessel supplying heart with blood) often died in their sleep and not immediately following severe exertion or a large meal. By this he did not imply that severe exertion or a large meal did not bring on the attack, but that the attack did not always immediately follow severe exertion or heavy eating.

More recently, Dr. J.C. Paterson, Regina, Saskatchewan, points out in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that it has been the common belief that over-exertion or intense emotional distress has a direct bearing on the fatal attack of coronary thrombosis, whereas his findings are that while overexertion and emotional distress with their great rise in blood pressure may produce the coronary thrombosis, they do not "immediately" cause death.

From his studies of these cases after death, Dr. Paterson finds that the clot from the blocking of torn bloodvessels forms gradually, possibly taking several days before it completely obstructs the blood vessel.

It can be understood, then, why

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 —Alan Sullivan

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